NOV PATENT 2003
PECHNER 1600/2900

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Akihiko SANO et al.

Conf.:

5150

Appl. No.:

09/786,746

Group:

1615

Filed:

April 18, 2001

Examiner: R. Bennett

For:

LONG TIME DRUG-SUSTAINED RELEASE PREPARATION

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

November 10, 2003 (Monday)

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated July 8, 2003, the due date for response having been extended one (1) month to November 8, 2003, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.

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